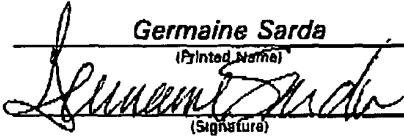


IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: Buechler et al.
Title: MARKERS FOR DIFFERENTIAL
DIAGNOSIS AND METHODS OF
USE THEREOF
Appl. No.: 10/603,891
Filing Date: 06/24/2003
Examiner: Unknown
Art Unit: Unknown

CERTIFICATE OF FACSIMILE TRANSMISSION I hereby certify that this paper is being facsimile transmitted to the United States Patent and Trademark Office, Alexandria, Virginia on the date below. <u>Germaine Sarda</u> (Printed Name)  (Signature) <u>September 10, 2003</u> (Date of Deposit)

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Mail Stop NON-FEE AMENDMENT
Commissioner for Patents
PO Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450

Sir:

Prior to examination of the present application, Applicants respectfully request that the above-identified prior application be amended.

The amendments presented below are in compliance with the revised amendment format permitted in the Notice from the Office of Patent Legal Administration of the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office dated February 10, 2003, and published at 1267 OG 106 on February 25, 2003. Thus, the provisions of 37 CFR 1.121(a), (b), (c) and (d) are waived for amendments made in this application to the claims, specification, and drawings.

Amendments to the Specification begin on page 2 of this document.

Remarks/Arguments begin on page 4 of this document.

Please amend the application as follows: